

SPRING 2023

THE ISANTIAN

Official Newsletter of the City of Isanti



Letter from the Mayor

BY JIMMY GORDON



It was an honor to be elected as your new mayor last November with a resounding victory. The new council was sworn in on January 9th. I've tried my best to lead with the principles I ran on.

Lower Taxes: We plan to leave no stone unturned in the search for cost savings for our residents. We started with the toughest part of the city budget to work on right out of the gate. Our Police Department is the most important thing we do as a city and our officers deserve our respect and appreciation. It also happens to be 54% of our budget and has seen a 67% increase over the last five years. We asked our City Administrator and Police Chief to take a deep dive into the budget and we found it's being managed very well with appropriate staffing levels. Going through this process also allowed us to look at the future growth of the department and how we can manage it wisely in regard to both public safety and fiscal responsibility.

Build a Strong Community: We are officially moving forward with the much anticipated splashpad. I was initially opposed to this when the original plan first came out a few years back. It called for a DNR grant of \$300,000. It required \$218,000 from the Park Dedication Fund, which is funded by developers at \$1500 per lot and is only allowed to be used on new park amenities. Finally it also asked for a \$218,000 contribution from the residents of Isanti and that's what I took issue with. Since the original plan was laid out we've now built up a balance in the Park Dedication Fund that should allow us to use only those funds and the DNR grant.

Protect Property Rights: We are currently working on ordinance changes that will allow for larger secondary structures and more of them. The new limits on secondary structure sizes will be in relation to the 40% impervious surface limit instead of in relation to the size of your primary structure. So basically the larger your lot the larger your secondary structures can be. We have also begun discussing the possibility of allowing for secondary dwellings like a mother in law apartment for example.

Cut Red Tape: As elected officials we swear an oath to defend the constitution of the United States. The worst kind of red tape infringes on our constitutional rights. So the council was alarmed by recent gun control legislation proposed in the state legislature. We felt if signed into law it would violate the Second Amendment Rights of the residents of Isanti. Our best course of action was to write a letter to the Isanti County Commissioners voicing the council's support for the effort to make Isanti County a Second Amendment Dedicated County.

If you have any questions or concerns, would like an update on any other happenings at the city or have a new idea or suggestion I'd love to hear it all. My phone is (763) 587-5633 or email me at jimmy.gordon20@yahoo.com

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City Offices & Staff Directory

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor James Gordon	763-587-5633
Council Member Dan Collison	763-444-4298
Council Member George Hemen	612-701-7293
Council Member Steve Lundeen	612-203-8957
Council Member Luke Merrill	763-516-5082

jimmy.gordon20@yahoo.com
djcollison@gmail.com
georgehemen@mail.com
sdlundeen@yahoo.com
merri392@hotmail.com

City Hall
110 1st Ave NW
PO Box 428
Isanti, MN 55040
763-444-5512
Isanti@cityofisanti.us
www.cityofisanti.us

CITY STAFF

Administration	Josi Wood
City Administrator	Katie Grotte
Human Resources Director	Jaden Strand
City Clerk	

jwood@cityofisanti.us
kgrotte@cityofisanti.us
jstrand@cityofisanti.us

City Hall Hours:
Monday thru Friday
8:00am-4:30pm

City Hall will be closed for
the observance of the
following holidays:

April 7 - Good Friday
May 29 - Memorial Day

PUBLIC SERVICES

Public Services Director	Matt Sylvester	msylvester@cityofisanti.us
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POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Chief	Travis Muyres	tmuyres@cityofisanti.us
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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development Director	Stephanie Hillesheim	shillesheim@cityofisanti.us
Community Development Specialist	Ryan Saltis	rsaltis@cityofisanti.us
Building Official	Matt Small	buildingofficial@cityofisanti.us
Permit Technician	Candy Conrad	permits@cityofisanti.us

MUNICIPAL LIQUOR STORE

Liquor Store Manager	Keith Lusk	klusk@cityofisanti.us
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FINANCE

Finance Director	Mike Betker	mbetker@cityofisanti.us
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PARKS AND RECREATION

Parks, Recreation & Events Coordinator	Jordan Clementson	isantiiparks@cityofisanti.us
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 @CityofIsanti

Police
401 1st Ave N
Isanti, MN 55040
Non Emergency
763-444-4671
Emergency
911
After Hours
763-689-2141

 @IsantiPD

Public Works
763-444-0459

Municipal Liquor Store
10 6th Ave SE
Isanti, MN 55040
763-444-5063

 @IsantiMunicipalLiquor

MARY KAY
TimeWise® Miracle Set 3D™
Your three-dimensional approach to skin aging

This antioxidant powerhouse, featuring the exclusive, patent-pending *Age Minimize 3D™ Complex*, helps interrupt the triggers that can cause your skin to look older before its time.
Contact me to defy aging.

Joelle Hime
Independent Beauty Consultant
www.marykay.com/joelle



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Be prepared for warmer days with this rebate offer.

\$25 REBATE
With the purchase of a qualifying Wi-Fi thermostat + enrollment in the Wi-Fi PowerNap® AC program.

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Community Development

BY RYAN SALTIS - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

Municipal Stormwater

This winter has brought a significant amount of snowfall and as the temperatures begin to rise heading into the spring season, an increasing amount of snow melt comes with it. Rain and snow melt run over impervious surfaces in urbanized areas – roads, sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, roof tops, etc. – and can pick up pesticides, fertilizers, oils, metals, pathogens, salt, sediment, trash, and other pollutants and carry them into storm drains. Storm drains found on neighborhood streets discharge directly into lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands which make stormwater runoff the leading source of water pollution. The most common sources of pollutants in urban stormwater include road salt, oil, gas, spilled materials, pesticides and fertilizers applied to lawns, leaves and lawn clippings. These pollutants damage local natural resources and can impact aquatic habitats in the Rum River, streams, lakes and wetlands. If you see any of these pollutants entering into stormwater catch basins, please notify Isanti City Hall (763-444-5512).



Local public entities that own or operate municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4) play a key role in preventing stormwater runoff from harming Minnesota's valuable water resources - Information provided by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

As an MS4 Community, the City of Isanti is proud to be a vital part of protecting our water resources. All questions regarding this designation may be sent to the Community Development Department of Isanti.

Consider clearing snow around stormwater catch basins to help with snow melt.

Economic Development

We are excited for the following businesses to open new locations in 2023!

Rockstad and Co. Relics and Wares
Dairy Queen Grill and Chill
American First CDL Academy Truck Driving School
Unlimited Welding
Midco

For more information regarding Isanti businesses please visit our website Business Directory at:

cityofisanti.us/business-directory

If you want your Isanti business to be added to the directory please email Stephanie Hillesheim, Community Development Director at shillesheim@cityofisanti.us





Police Department

BY TRAVIS MUYRES - POLICE CHIEF

The Isanti Police Department works in collaboration with the citizens of Isanti to enhance the quality of life. Collaboration between the police and the community identifies and solves community problems. Every day, community members encounter situations calling upon them to be the eyes and ears of law enforcement.

Be watchful for any unusual or suspicious people, activities, or vehicles in our neighborhood.

WHO SHOULD CALL THE POLICE?

You are the perfect person to call the police to report anything you find suspicious or believe is a crime in progress. Don't assume someone else is observing the same event or behavior and is calling the police.

WHY SHOULD YOU CALL THE POLICE?

You risk nothing if you call the police and you are wrong. Consider what you risk if you fail to call the police and you were right. We would rather have you call and it be nothing, than not call and it turns out to be something serious. Information on suspicious activities directs how and where the Police Officers patrol.

WHEN SHOULD YOU CALL THE POLICE?

Whenever you observe suspicious events, persons, or vehicles, even though you may not be the only person observing them, call the police. Never think the next person will do it. The police would rather get numerous calls on the same event than none at all.

Working together will enhance the quality of life for the Isanti Community!

BICYCLE SAFETY

Everyone riding a bicycle needs to wear a helmet no matter how far you intend to ride. Helmet use has been estimated to reduce the odds of head injury by 50 percent, and the odds of head, face, or neck injury by 33 percent.

- Perform a pre-ride check over your bicycle to make sure nothing is broken or wrong with it.
- Wear brightly colored clothing so that others can see you better.
- Remember: one seat = only one rider! Keep both hands on the handlebars.
- Obey traffic signs and lights. Use hand signals when stopping or turning.
- Always ride in the same direction as traffic and use the right-hand side of the road.
- Look both ways before crossing the street and stay alert for cars backing out of driveways.
- When riding with others, ride in a single-file line.

Please enjoy all of your outdoor activities. Remember to always be thinking about safety!





Isanti Fire District Update

BY AL JANKOVICH - FIRE CHIEF

The Isanti Fire District is anticipating spring as much as many of our neighbors this year! Thank you to everyone who helped keep our roads, sidewalks and fire hydrant access areas clear of snow and ice over the winter.

Looking back at the 569 times the fire department responded to 911 emergencies in the City limits last year, several come to mind that are worthy of a friendly reminder.

21 times we responded to false smoke alarms. Unfortunately for you folks these are very unsettling, especially when they wake you from sleep. To avoid the possibility of this happening to you, change your smoke alarm batteries annually, and on the 10th time replace the whole detector. Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are not intended to last longer than 10 years.

5 times we found carbon monoxide at life threatening levels inside homes. Reasons why carbon monoxide builds up could be due to an improper running furnace, a plugged exhaust vent, damaged water heater, or something we see every few years is a new kitchen stove that is set up for propane at a home that uses natural gas. In this case the flame produced is not stable and emits excessive harmful gasses.

71 times we responded for non-emergent services generated from 911 calls. These instances include calls to aid in animal rescues, smoke removal (often times due to burnt food in multi-family dwellings), to provide assistance to the police department or other various concerns that are called or texted into our dispatch center.

416 times we were paged out to emergency medical service (EMS) incidents in which we respond to assist the ambulance, most often Allina Health in the City limits. In 2022, these EMS calls included 24 motor vehicle crashes. This type of call accounted for 73% of our total call volume and is currently being reviewed by fire department officials to find more efficiencies.

Working fires accounted for 7 of our overall calls in the City last year. These included fires in buildings, vehicles or containers which required us to pump water from our fire engine while geared up. Fortunately, this is a relatively small number, however the amount of expense, risk and disturbance these runs put on those who were affected by them is substantial. This type of call is always a target of ours and will forever be a goal to reduce through education and prevention.



If any guys or gals you know may be interested in joining our team, we would love to hear from them.

mnfirehire.com is a great resource to learn about becoming a paid-on-call firefighter and will connect you with us or whichever fire department is in your/their area. If you follow the link and look close you may recognize the fire engine in the background of the opening video, its ours!

-Chief Jankovich





Public Works

BY MATT SYLVESTER - PUBLIC SERVICES DIRECTOR

The Isanti Public Works Department is staffed by the Public Services Director, Foreman, Mechanic, five Maintenance Technicians and two seasonal workers; which are responsible for:

Streets – removal of snow and debris, street sweeping, apply street markings, maintain signage, pothole patching and repair.

Sidewalks and Trails – remove school route sidewalk/trail snow and debris; and maintain the sidewalk and trail system.

Parks and Public Buildings – remove snow and debris from parking areas, apply parking markings, maintain park equipment, mow grass and maintain sprinkler systems, building maintenance and tree trimming.

Water System – maintain water distribution system (i.e. mains, valves, hydrants, and meters). Maintain wells, pumps, and the Water Treatment Plant. Perform daily water samples to maintain the correct levels of free and total chlorine as well as fluoride. Perform monthly samples and reports for the MDH.

Wastewater System – maintain wastewater collection system, lift stations, and Wastewater Treatment Plant. Perform daily wastewater samples for the correct levels of PH and dissolved oxygen and prepare monthly reports for the MPCA.

Storm Water System – maintain storm water distribution system and public storm water ponds to ensure they are performing correctly.

Community Events – assists as directed with set-up of equipment; and clean-up activities on streets and public grounds.

Equipment maintenance – includes preventive and corrective maintenance and service on all department equipment, vehicles, buildings and grounds.

Daily and Monthly Safety Inspections – routine daily City-wide inspection of community infrastructure and services as well as 24-hour on-call service provided to City residents.

The Public Services Director and Maintenance Technicians earn and maintain credentials that provide them with the knowledge and skills that are essential to the duties that they perform each day to maintain OSHA compliance. The Public Works Department provides the residents and visitors of Isanti with access to safe, properly functioning parks, streets, recreational areas and Wastewater and Water compliance.

WATER MAIN FLUSHING MAY 1ST – MAY 5TH



Compost Site
Public Works Garage
100 Isanti Pkwy NW

Leaves and Grass
Clippings Only!

April 15-November 5
Tuesdays & Thursdays
1-7pm (or sunset)

Saturdays 12-5pm
Select Sundays 12-5pm*
*April 16, 23, 30
October 22, 29 &
November 5

Parks and Recreation

BY JORDAN CLEMENTSON - PARKS, RECREATION & EVENTS COORDINATOR

We have a fun summer ahead with some new opportunities for you and your family! Be sure to make time to come check out what we have to offer. More programs and events will be added to our schedule for 2023. Be sure to check out www.cityofisanti.us and follow us on facebook @CityofIsanti for the latest details!



Community Garden Plots Still Available!

2023 Plot Rental

Ground Plots (10'x10') \$15
Max of 3 per household

Raised Beds* (4'Wx8'Lx19"H) \$20

Elevated Beds* (3'Wx2'Lx36"H) \$20

*Contact us about wheelchair accessible options. Registration priority will be given to City of Isanti residents. Priority for raised/elevated beds will be given to those with mobility needs.

Questions?

Please contact Isanti, Parks, Recreation & Events at
763-762-5754 or
IsantiParks@CityofIsanti.us



Family Summer Entertainment Series!

Fun for the whole family! ~ Bluebird Amphitheater ~ Food Trucks ~ 5-7PM



Magician Matt Dunn
June 13th

Teddy Bear Band
June 27th

Tricia & The Toonies
July 11th

Wendy's Wiggle Jiggle Jam
July 25th

Mixed Nuts
August 8th

The Jolly Pops
August 29th



Parks and Recreation

BY JORDAN CLEMENTSON - PARKS, RECREATION & EVENTS COORDINATOR

Splash Pad Coming Soon To Bluebird Park!

The City of Isanti was awarded a MN DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant in 2022 to construct a splash pad in Bluebird Park. The project will include the splash pad, seating and shade structures, a permanent bathroom, pollinator garden, fitness equipment along the bike trails, and ADA trail connections to various features in Bluebird Park.

The project will be going out for bids soon and construction is tentatively slated to start in the middle of July 2023 with a target completion of July 2024. We are excited to be able to provide this great park amenity to the community!

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ISANTI
STREET DANCE SERIES
AMP IT UP
@ Bluebird
AMPHITHEATER

JUNE 17
7-11pm

GEN X JUKEBOX

FREE & FUN FOR ALL AGES!

FREE! • LIVE MUSIC • FOOD TRUCKS • BEER WAGON

MINUTE MAJOR

JULY 15

GOOD FOR GARY

AUGUST 12

STONE DAISY

SEPTEMBER 16

DOWNTOWN ISANTI
STREET DANCE
Main Street & 1st Ave
7-11pm

FREE & FUN FOR ALL AGES!

FREE! • LIVE MUSIC • FOOD TRUCKS • BEER WAGON



COMMUNITY CENTER

The City of Isanti strives to offer the facility for reasonable fees

Private Reservation Rates

Special Events
50+ ppl, full-day
\$295.28 inc. tax

Private Event <50 ppl
Full-day - \$107.38 inc. tax
Half-day - \$53.69 inc. tax

Non-Profit Event < 50 ppl
Full-day - \$50 + tax
Half-day - \$25 + tax

Visit CityofIsanti.us for an application.

Isanti PARKS

PFCT
PRAIRIE FIRE CHILDREN'S THEATRE

We are looking for area youth who want to perform on stage as well as help with production!

Save the Dates!
Tom Sawyer: June 18-24
Alice in Wonderland: August 20-26
@ Bluebird Park Amphitheater

For more information contact
isantiparks@cityofisanti.us or visit
www.cityofisanti.us

East Central Regional arts Council

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the East Central Regional Arts Council thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT



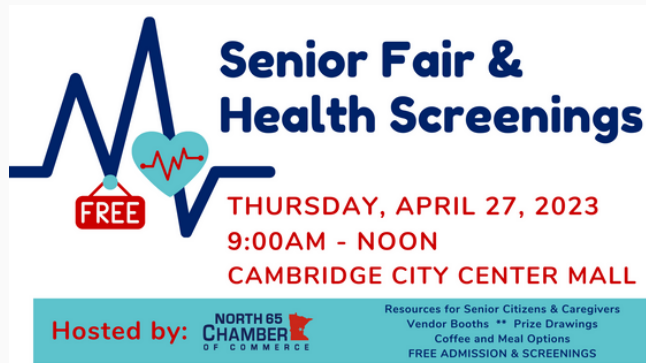
Community Programs

Senior Fair

Thursday, April 27, 2023

9:00am – 12:00pm

This popular event for senior citizens and their caregivers includes free health and wellness screenings, plus vendor booths featuring resources and giveaways from local businesses and organizations. Food and beverage are available to purchase on site. Visit www.north65chamber.com for details.



North 65 Chamber of Commerce Annual Gala & Awards Dinner

Thursday, June 8, 2023

5:00pm-8:00pm

You are cordially invited to join us for this special evening of celebration, networking and entertainment as we showcase the businesses and individuals who advance the economic wellbeing of our community. Multiple awards will be presented honoring excellence and longevity in business, innovative practices, and outstanding contributions. Award nominations are accepted through March 20, 2023 at www.north65chamber.com.



ISANTI RODEO & JUBILEE DAYS

July 6 - 9, 2023

Isanti, MN

Isanti Rodeo & Jubilee Days

July 6 – 9, 2023

The North 65 Chamber of Commerce and the Isanti Firefighters Rodeo Association proudly present the 2023 Isanti Rodeo & Jubilee Days festival, July 6-9. A wide variety of activities are held in partnership with many community organizations.

Contact the North 65 Chamber of Commerce for more information and to register. Visit www.north65chamber.com, or follow the event on Facebook @IsantiRodeoJubileeDays.

Volunteers are needed to make this annual favorite a success! Flexible opportunities are available to fit your schedule and interests. Scan this QR code below to sign up.





Community Programs

Isanti Lions Club

Isanti Lions... Going Strong in Our Community for 49 years!

“Together We Can” is the motto of International Lions President, Brian Sheehan, from Bird Island, Minnesota. In Lions we live, we give, and we serve as one. Because we know that together there are no limits. Lions International consists of 1.4 million members. The Isanti Lions Club was chartered in 1974 and currently has 38 members that support many activities within Isanti County. All of our fundraising proceeds go back to Isanti County. This is a list of some of the activities we support.

Jubilee Days, Isanti Rodeo, Community Corn Feed, Turtle Races, Isanti Street Dances, Ticket sellers and takers at Isanti County Fair, Kid Sight vision testing for near and farsightedness, Christmas project providing food and gifts for 475 kids to about 150 plus families in need, Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, Isanti Fire District for fire safety in our schools, ECRL Isanti Library book return drop box and supplies, Financial support for 2 families in Isanti who lost their homes to fires, Isanti Cancer Crusaders, Financial support to Robotics, Wrestlers and Boy Scouts spaghetti supper!

Our motto is simple, “We Serve.” Lions are part of a global service network, doing whatever is necessary to help our local communities.

If you are interested in a great, fun and rewarding way to get involved in your community, meet new people and help others, you have found the right organization! We could do more if we had more of you to help. Contact Lion Lorenz 763-670-7367, Lion Joe 612-790-9529, or Lion Dwayne 651-706-4235.



Summer is here!

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We have classes and programs for all ages. More than 25 new classes such as Rugby League, Kickball League, Challenger Sports' Soccer, Acrylic Painting Series, Quilting Series and MORE!



REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Classes fill up quickly!
Sign up for classes at c-ischools.ce.eleyo.com.

